



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
DONALD E. WILLIAMSON, M.D. • STATE HEALTH OFFICER

DEC 26 1996
FCC MAIL ROOM

PUBLIC HEALTH AREA III

Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Room 222
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Reference: CC Docket No. 96-45

To Whom It May Concern:

Upon receipt of a memo detailing the importance of the 1996 Telecommunication Act, I chose to write you to address my concerns on the matter. I am the Director of Environmental Health for an Area Health Department consisting of six counties in West Alabama. Five of the counties are considered very rural with Tuscaloosa County being the center and most populous of the counties. As Director of Environmental Health for the Public Health Departments in these counties, I work closely with the Environmentalists in each to enforce public health laws, rules and regulations. Also, I work with the other disciplines of public health such as the home health program, clinical programs, WIC nutrition program, social work programs, disease control programs, etc. As the primary public health team in these counties, we provide direct, hands-on care to the citizens of the counties through disease prevention, immunization, and protection against exposure to disease and environmental factors which would prove harmful.

We are responsible by state and federal law to oversee disease intervention in areas of sexually transmitted diseases, environmental health and enforcement, family planning, maternal and child health programs, etc. As local providers of health care, we work within the community with other local health care providers such as primary care hospitals, nursing homes, local doctors, and health care agencies. In doing so, we can not say enough as to the importance of good sound communication and data collection in this electronic age. Today, we are making split second decisions in field situations which are vital to proper and expedient health care delivery. In order to reinforce this decision making process, access to database information would prove invaluable to the health professional. With good access to data and retrieval of comparable data, better, more informed decisions could be reached and decisive action could be implemented.

Your inclusion of local health departments in this Act will help insure that strong networks of data linking are available as tools in today's war against disease. Please contact me if additional information is needed for this program from my local area health department.

Sincerely,

Donald R. Pugh, MPH

cc: Nancy Rawding, NACCHO

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List A B C D E

Questions to Address:DEC 26 1996
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1. Name of project:

PUBLIC HEALTH AREA 3

2. Please list each of the project's sites:

Name of Site:	State in which it is located:
<u>TUSCALOOSA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>ALABAMA</u>
<u>BIBB CO.</u>	<u>" "</u>
<u>FAYETTE CO.</u>	<u>" "</u>
<u>GREENE CO.</u>	<u>" "</u>
<u>LAMAR CO.</u>	<u>" "</u>
<u>PICKENS CO.</u>	<u>" "</u>
<u>PUBLIC HEALTH AREA 3 ANNEX</u>	<u>" "</u>

Please answer the following questions for each of your sites.
Use additional sheets if necessary.

3. What is the nearest city of population equal to or greater than 50,00 in your state, and approximately how far are you from its boundary?

City: TUSCALOOSA Distance from city boundary: N/A

4. Name of the project's telecommunications service provider:

5. Level of telecommunications service the project is currently using: (For example, voice grade, 144 Kbps (ISDN), 384 Kbps, T-1 or equivalent)

14.4 & 38.4

4005

6. Charges for telecommunications service:

Is there a monthly charge? No ☐ Yes ☒ 2

If yes, how much is the charge? _____

Is there a usage-based charge? No ☒ Yes ☐

If yes, how much is the charge?_____

Is there a distance component (such as a per-mile fee) of the charge? No ☐ Yes ☐

If yes, how much is the charge? _____

Was there an installation fee? No ☒ Yes ☐

If yes, how much was the charge? _____

Is the charge the regular tarrified rate, or is there a discount from the telecommunications provider? Tarrified ☐ Discount ☐

If there is a discount, how much is it?_____

7. How does the project use telecommunications in the delivery of health care? (For example -- to send x-rays, distribute public health information, or perform video consultations. Please identify any occasional or episodic uses, such as might result from an outbreak of disease.)

NOT PRESENTLY USED. HOPEFULLY
THIS APPLICATION & PROJECT WILL
SPARK INTEREST IN THE DEVELOPMENT
OF SUCH.

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8. Could the project provide the services it is currently providing with less bandwidth? What effect would a lesser level of bandwidth have? (The implications of using greater or lesser levels of telecommunications services are related to image transmission time. What would the be the impact if the health care activities for which you now use telecommunications took twice as long, or if they could be completed in half the time?)

9. What would the implications of having a greater level of bandwidth be?

10. Do you have e-mail? No ☐ Yes ☒

11. Do you have Internet access? No ☐ Yes ☒

If yes, do you incur long-distance charges by using it?

No ☒ Yes ☐

Please estimate your number of hours of Internet use per month:

5 PRESENTLY

12. If you have access to the Internet, please list any purposes other than e-mail (such as accessing databases such as Lexis/Nexis) for which you use it:

ACCESS DATA FOR REFERENCE.

ACCESS HOMEPAGES FOR INFO. COLLECTION

STATE-OF-ART INFO. AVAILABLE.

ETC.